

## CHALLENGE GRANT COMMUNITY PARTNERS

### Resources for Community Development (Alameda County)

Main contact: Breann Gala, [bgala@rcdhousing.org](mailto:bgala@rcdhousing.org)

For more than 35 years, Resources for Community Development has created and preserved affordable housing for very low- and low-income individuals and families, to build community and enrich lives. RCD's affordable housing and community services make a difference in the lives of seniors, lower wage working families, and people with special needs. At the same time, their work supports inclusiveness, builds economic strength, and improves environmental quality and sustainability throughout the community.

Since 2015, RCD has been working in the unincorporated areas of Alameda County and has helped develop Ashland Place, an affordable housing development with a market hall for low-income entrepreneurs. RCD also leads a grassroots collaborative, My Eden Voice, to engage residents and advocate in the unincorporated Eden area. It has created a housing committee, which is launching an Eden Renters Union, a grassroots tenant rights organization.

Additional community partners include: In-Advance, Eden United Church of Christ, La Familia, Alameda County Community Food Bank, and the Eden Land Trust

### East Bay Community Law Center (City of Berkeley)

Main contact: Seema Rupani, [srupani@ebclc.org](mailto:srupani@ebclc.org)

The East Bay Community Law Center provides legal services and policy advocacy to low-income communities. Founded in 1988 by law students from UC Berkeley's School of Law, the student founders were motivated by the intersection of significant trends in legal services and legal education.

The City of Berkeley and the EBCLC have a long history of working together on policies important to the welfare of Berkeley's low-income communities. EBCLC has already been working with the Mayor's Office and the City's two community land trusts on the TOPA policy and provides support to tenants at risk of eviction through the City's Housing Retention Program, which provides emergency rental assistance to income-qualifying tenants.

Additional community partners include: Northern California Land Trust and Bay Area Community Land Trust

### EPA CAN DO (City of East Palo Alto)

Main contact: Duane Bay, [dbay@epacando.org](mailto:dbay@epacando.org)

EPA CAN DO is a 30-year old, grassroots, member-controlled community development corporation. EPA CAN DO builds and maintains affordable housing in East Palo Alto and provides educational workshops and counseling in the areas of home buying, credit, and budgeting.

EPA CAN DO currently administers East Palo Alto's ownership Below Market Rate program, was at the forefront of foreclosure prevention casework, and has partnered with the City and regional non-profits to co-develop the majority of permanently affordable rental apartments in East Palo Alto.

Additional community partners include: Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto (CLSEPA), Youth United for Community Action (YUCA), and PAHALI (Preserving Affordable Housing Assets Long-term, Inc.)

### **Bay Area For All (BA4A) Preservation Table (City of Oakland)**

Main contact: Leslie Gordon, [leslie@urbanhabitat.org](mailto:leslie@urbanhabitat.org)

The Bay Area for All Preservation Table (BA4A) is comprised of Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment, Asian Pacific Environmental Network, Causa Justa: Just Cause, East Bay Housing Organizations, Oakland Community Land Trust, Public Advocates, and Urban Habitat. This Table is a collaborative of grassroots and policy organizations that partner with non-profit affordable housing developers and other key stakeholders to acquire existing affordable housing that is occupied by low-income residents – particularly low-income residents of color – taking the properties off the speculative market and preserving them as permanently affordable. Since 2017, with support from the national Strong, Prosperous, Resilient Communities Challenge (SPARCC), the BA4A Preservation Table has worked to develop a new model of tenant-driven affordable housing preservation; in this model, tenant organizing groups have used their tenant organizing work to identify buildings that tenants believe are at risk of losing their affordability.

Additional community partners include: Oakland Property Acquisition Collaborative (a group of local non-profit housing developers such as East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation, Housing Consortium of the East Bay, and Oakland Community Land Trust, with backbone support from Enterprise Community Partners)

### **SV@Home (City of Palo Alto)**

Main contact: David Meyer, [david@siliconvalleyathome.com](mailto:david@siliconvalleyathome.com)

SV@Home is a membership organization that advocates for policies, programs, land use, and funding that lead to an increased supply of affordable housing. Additionally, SV@Home educates elected officials and the community about the need for housing, and the link between housing and other quality of life outcomes, including education, health, transportation, and the environment. SV@Home membership includes both nonprofit and for-profit housing developers, local government, nonprofit community partners, business and tech sector companies, and members of the community.

SV@Home has been the voice for affordable housing in the Silicon Valley advocating for policies, programs, land use, and funding. The organization has worked at a regional scale by engaging local jurisdictions' staff, providing technical support, and facilitating conversations.

Additional community partners include: Palo Alto Forward, Palo Alto Housing Corporation, and Palo Alto Unified School District

### **Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County (Redwood City)**

Main contact: Shirley E. Gibson, [sgibson@legalaidsmc.org](mailto:sgibson@legalaidsmc.org)

The Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County's mission is to fight social injustice through civil legal advocacy for people living in poverty. Founded in 1959, LASSMC has provided free, quality civil legal services to San Mateo County's low-income residents for more than six decades.

LASSMC staff provide comprehensive legal assistance for tenants at risk of displacement, serving more than 1200 low-income renter households each year. Because LASSMC serves a high volume of San Mateo County tenants, the agency is also a reliable source of uniquely detailed data regarding displacement patterns and demographics, and it is frequently called upon to provide specific data to inform local housing policy. LASSMC also works closely with tenant organizers, community organizations, and county agencies in advocating for and implementing tenant protection policies.

Additional community partners include: Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center, Faith In Action Bay Area, and Fair Rents For Redwood City

### **SOMOS Mayfair (City of San Jose)**

Main contact: Camille Llanes-Fontanilla, [cfontanilla@somosmayfair.org](mailto:cfontanilla@somosmayfair.org)

SOMOS Mayfair builds community power in East San José through leadership development and by organizing around resident-led solutions. SOMOS was founded in 1997 to address chronic crisis in Mayfair, a working-poor and immigrant neighborhood, where decades of systemic oppression and unjust policies have left East San José families with limited access to capital, opportunities and resources. SOMOS has served as convener, uplifting community voice and investing in multi-generational families, while banding together with neighbors in rewriting Mayfair's narrative.

Additional community partners include: The Council of Community Housing Organizations (CCHO), Independent Consultants, and San Jose Housing Department